

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims 1, 9, 12 and 14 and canceled the claims 18 and 23 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Therefore, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has rejected the claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 18 and 23 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Totsu in view of Casino stating that Totsu discloses a screw head that comprises the claimed features that include a bit engaging groove that is at a specified radial distance from a central portion of the screw head, groove widths of respective branching grooves that extend in a radial direction from a central portion of said bit engaging groove are formed so that the widths thereof gradually expand, thus producing substantially equal intervals with a width dimension boundary portions which are between respective adjacent branching grooves, respective outer circumferential end wall surfaces of said bit engaging groove are formed in substantially perpendicular attitude to a specified depth from an open edge part and step parts displaced downward toward a central portion of a screw neck from perpendicular lower edge portions are respectively provided, the opening edge part of the respective outer circumferential edge wall surfaces of the bit engaging groove is formed at an inclined surface that inclines upward an angle of 15 to 35 degrees from an inner diameter side toward outwardly radial direction, a bottom of the intersecting central portion of the bit engaging groove is formed as a bottom surface which is a circular conical recessed part, and boundary portions between the respective adjacent branching grooves of the bit engaging groove are formed so that the boundary portions are formed by planar side wall surfaces that intersect at obtuse angles showing left-right symmetry with respect to the respective branching grooves in the central portion of the bit engaging groove and a surface of the screw head that forms the boundary portions is formed as an inclined surface portion that is inclined at an angle of 20 to 50 degrees downward towards the central portion of the bit engaging groove, but does not disclose a Y-shaped groove divided into three equal parts; Casino discloses a screw head having a Y-shaped groove so as to enhance the structural integrity of the head, and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Totsu in view of the teachings of Casino.

In reply to this rejection, Applicant has carefully reviewed Totsu and firstly Applicant respectfully submits that Totsu does not disclose that the screw head is formed in the shape of a pot and instead discloses a flat head screw. Also, while Totsu may disclose branching grooves and boundary portions, Applicant respectfully submits that Totsu does not disclose that the width of the boundary portions and the width of the branching grooves would be of substantially a same dimension. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Totsu does not disclose that step parts which slope downwardly towards a central portion of the screw neck from the specified depth of the outer circumferential end wall surfaces towards the intersecting central portion of the bit engaging grooves and instead discloses a flat surface 32b. Finally, Applicant respectfully submits that the opening edge part of the outer circumferential end wall surfaces of the bit engaging groove in Totsu is substantially perpendicular as is clear from the Figures 6a, 7 and 12a through 12c. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the reasons disclosed above, Totsu does not disclose all of the elements of Applicant's invention except for the Y-shaped groove.

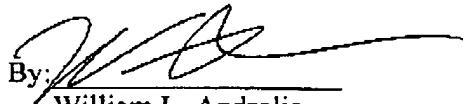
Still further, Applicant has carefully reviewed Casino and respectfully submits that while Casino may disclose a Y-shaped groove, it too has all the deficiencies of Totsu and particularly does not disclose a screw head in the shape of a pot, the width of the boundary portions being substantially the same as the width of the engaging groove, the sloped step parts and the opening edge part described and claimed in Applicant's claims.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination suggested by the Examiner is not Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 1, 9, 12 and 14 are not obvious over Totsu in view of Casino.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to QUINN EMANUEL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 50-4367.

Respectfully submitted,

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